



National Institute of Standards & Technology

# Certificate of Analysis

Standard Reference Material<sup>®</sup> 3185

Nitrate Anion Standard Solution

Lot No. 991508

This Standard Reference Material (SRM) is intended primarily for use in anion ion chromatography or any other analytical technique that requires aqueous standard solutions for calibration or as control samples. One unit of SRM 3185 consists of five 10 mL sealed borosilicate glass ampoules of a single component solution prepared gravimetrically to contain a nominal 1000 mg/kg of nitrate dissolved in filtered (0.22 µm) 18 MΩ water.

Certified Value (*Y*) of Nitrate: 976 mg/kg ± 6 mg/kg at 22 °C

The certified value (*Y*) is based on: (1) gravimetric preparation using high purity sodium nitrate, and (2) ion chromatography calibrated using three independently prepared gravimetric solutions.

The uncertainty in the certified value is calculated as

$$U = (ku_c + B) \text{ mg/kg}$$

where *k* is the coverage factor, *u<sub>c</sub>* is the combined standard uncertainty, and *B* is an allowance for method bias. The coverage factor, *k* = 2.00, is the Student's *t*-value for a 95 % confidence interval. The combined standard uncertainty, *u<sub>c</sub>*, has been calculated according to the ISO Guide [1] and is intended to represent, at the level of one standard deviation, the combined effect of uncertainty components associated with gravimetric preparation and the chromatographic measurement. The allowance for method bias, *B*, has been calculated according to the procedure of Schiller and Eberhardt for combining independent analytical methods [2].

**Expiration of Certification:** The certification of **SRM 3185 Lot No. 991508** is valid, within the measurement uncertainty specified, until **30 March 2005**, provided the SRM is handled in accordance with instructions given in this certificate (see "Instructions for Use"). This certification is nullified if the SRM is damaged, contaminated, or modified.

**Maintenance of Certification:** NIST will monitor representative solutions from this SRM lot over the period of its certification. If substantive changes occur that affect the certification before the expiration of certification, NIST will notify the purchaser. Return of the attached registration card will facilitate notification.

This SRM was prepared gravimetrically and analyzed using ion chromatography by J.M. Smeller of the NIST Analytical Chemistry Division.

Statistical consultation was provided by K.R. Eberhardt of the NIST Statistical Engineering Division.

The support aspects involved in the preparation, certification, and issuance of this SRM were coordinated through the NIST Standard Reference Materials Program by N.M. Trahey and B.S. MacDonald of the NIST Measurement Services Division.

Willie E. May, Chief  
Analytical Chemistry Division

John Rumble, Jr., Chief  
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Gaithersburg, MD 20899  
Certificate Issue Date: 08 December 2003  
*See Certificate Revision History on Last Page*

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

**Preparation of Working Standard Solutions by Mass:** Each diluted working standard solution should be prepared by transferring an aliquot of the SRM to an empty, dry, preweighed polyethylene bottle, and then reweighing the bottle. The dilution need not be exact since the mass of the empty bottle, mass of the bottle plus SRM aliquot, and the final diluted mass of the solution will permit calculation of the exact concentration of the working solution. Dilutions prepared gravimetrically as described will need no correction for temperature and no further correction for true concentration in vacuum. Dilute SRM solution concentration will be in mg/kg units. Volumetric dilutions are **NOT** recommended due to uncertainties in volume calibrations and variations in density. However, for user convenience, a procedure for volumetric preparation that will minimize the major sources of error is given below.

**Preparation of Working Standard Solutions by Volume:** Each diluted working standard solution should be prepared by transferring an aliquot of the SRM to an empty, dry polyethylene bottle and then weighing the bottle. The solution must now be transferred to a Class A volumetric flask and the polyethylene bottle reweighed to determine the exact mass of SRM solution transferred. The solution in the flask is then diluted to 99 % + of volume, mixed thoroughly, and the remaining few drops needed to dilute to exact volume carefully added. The concentration (in mg/mL) of the resulting diluted working standard solution can then be calculated by multiplying the mass (in kg) of the SRM solution amount by the SRM certified value (in mg/kg) and dividing the numerical product by the calibrated volume (in mL) of the flask used for dilution. If the analyst follows this procedure, no correction for density is needed, and although the concentration of the resulting working standard solution may be an uneven fraction of the original SRM concentration, it will be known as accurately as a volumetric dilution permits.

## REFERENCES

- [1] *Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement*; ISBN 92-67-10188-9, 1st Ed., ISO, Geneva, Switzerland (1993); see also Taylor, B.N.; Kuyatt, C.E.; *Guidelines for Evaluating and Expressing the Uncertainty of NIST Measurement Results*; NIST Technical Note 1297, U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, DC (1994); available at <http://physics.nist.gov/Pubs/>.
- [2] Schiller, S.B.; Eberhardt, K.R.; *Combining Data from Independent Chemical Analysis Methods*; *Spectrochimica Acta*, Vol. 46B, No. 12, pp. 1607-1613 (1991).

**Certificate Revision History:** 08 December 2003 (This revision reflects a change in the certification expiration date.); 24 January 2000 (Original certificate date).

*Users of this SRM should ensure that the certificate in their possession is current. This can be accomplished by contacting the SRM Program at: telephone (301) 975-6776; fax (301) 926-4751; e-mail [srminfo@nist.gov](mailto:srminfo@nist.gov); or via the Internet <http://www.nist.gov/srm>.*